

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

In the Office Action, claims 1-27 were pending. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 13-15, 18-21, 24, and 27 were rejected. Claims 7-8, 11-12, 16-17, 22-23, and 25-26 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms. In this response, claims 6-7, 11, 16, 21-22, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 23-24, and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objection to claims 7 and 22 respectively. Independent claims 10 and 24 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objection to claims 11 and 25 respectively. Independent claim 14 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of objected claim 16. Thus, all independent claims 1, 10, 14, 19, and 24 as amended are allowable. The rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in the subsequent prosecution of the present application.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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